

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 6, 2008 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action Claims 1-4, 6-20, 25-27 and 30-33 have been rejected and Claims 5 and 28 have been objected to. The Applicants have amended Claims 1, 9, 30 and 33 and have cancelled Claims 5 and 28. The Applicants reserve the right to further pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation and/or divisional application as well as for appeal purposes. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Such as this is being submitted within 2 months, it places the claims in better form for allowance or appeal and/or could not have been brought earlier.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-16, 18-20, 25-27, 30, 31 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,318,146 to Madsen et al. (hereinafter "Madsen") in view of U.S. Patent Pub. 2004-0009459 to Anderson. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claims 1, 9, 30 and 33 have been amended to incorporate the objected-to subject matter recited in dependent claims 5 and/or 28. For at least these reasons, Claims 1, 9, 30 and 33 are all in a condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that this reply places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this reply is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below. Applicant respectfully

requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN, LLP

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